

“The Warpath of Empire”: Preservation and Interpretation of French and Indian War Sites in Lake George, New York



Presented by Stephen Oetken for HISP 711

Presentation Overview

- *Research Problem and Research Questions*
- *Methodology*
- *Geographic Context*
- *Historic Context*
- *Three Case Study Sites*
- *National Preservation and Interpretive Programs*
- *Recommendations for a Military Road Trail Program*
- *Recommendation for Further Action*



Research Problem

How can the French and Indian War sites along the Military Road in Lake George, New York best be preserved and interpreted for visitors?

Research Questions

- Why should French and Indian War sites be preserved?
- What are the challenges to visiting French and Indian War sites in Lake George?
- Why put these sites in the context of the Military Road?
- What national models are helpful in preparing a Military Road Trail?

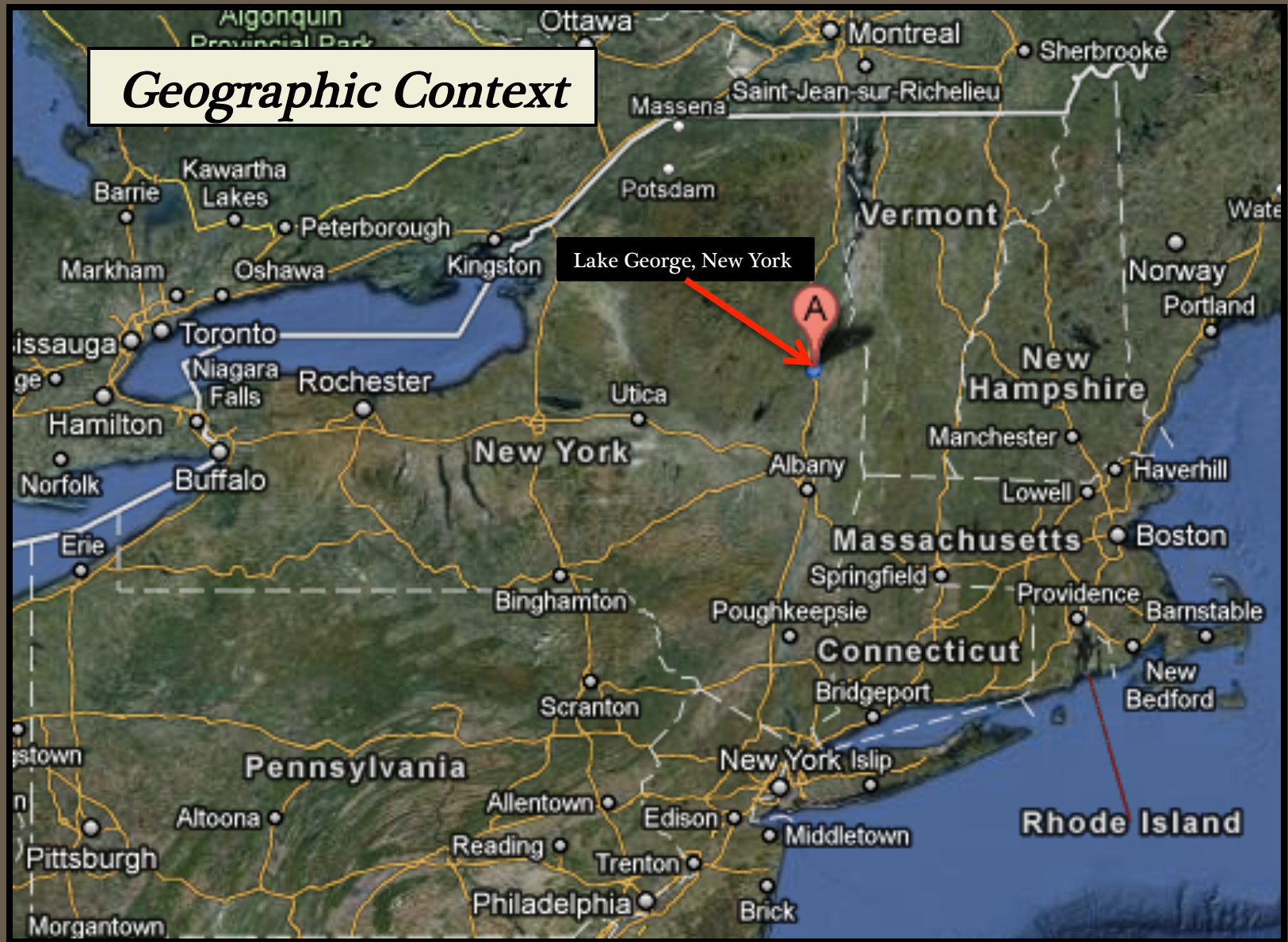


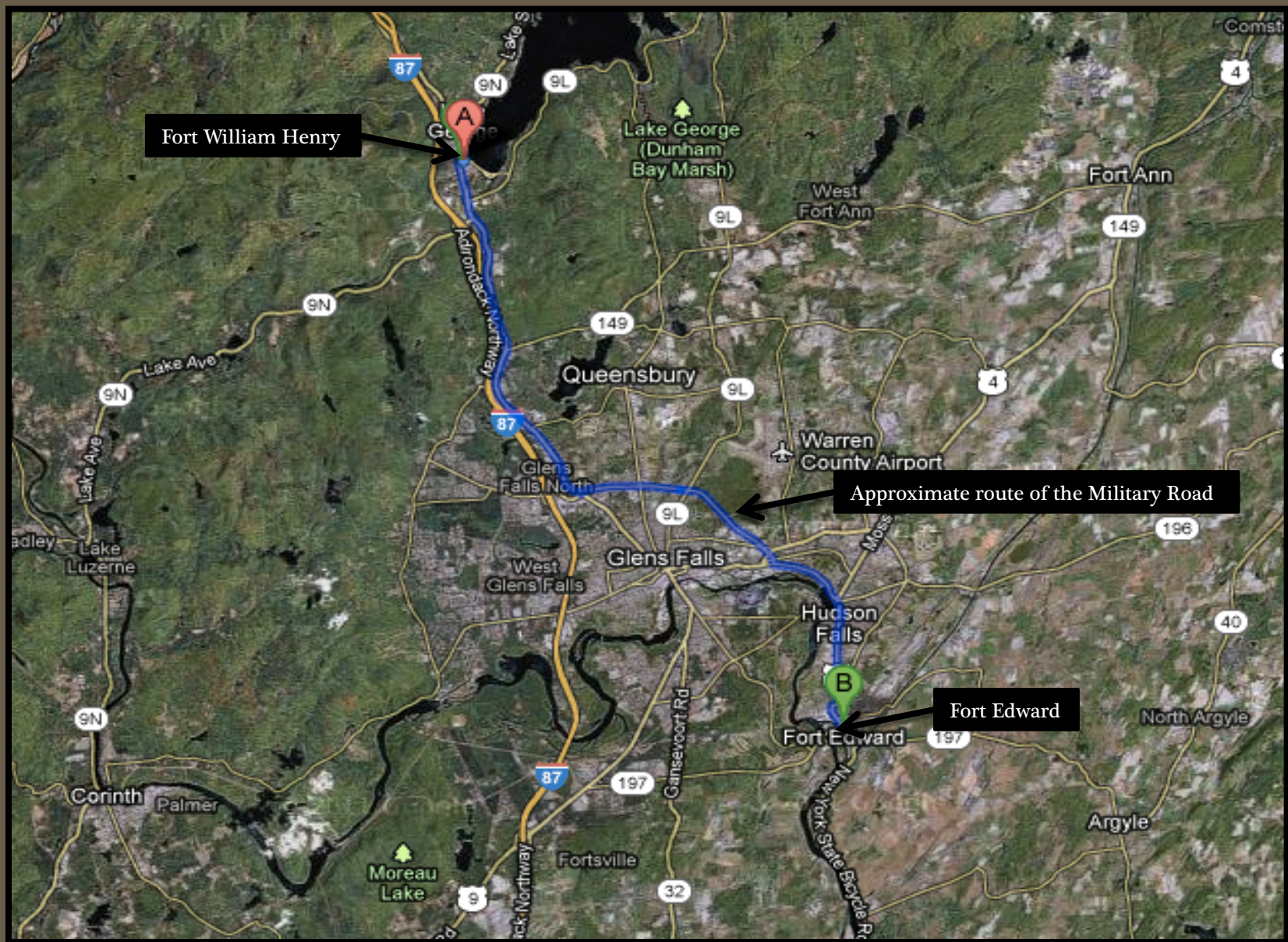
Methodology

- Literature Review
- Historical Research
- Site Visits
- National Park Service American Battlefield Protection Program
- Military Road report
- Interviews with local, state and federal stakeholders



Geographic Context





Historic Context

The French and Indian War 1754 - 1763

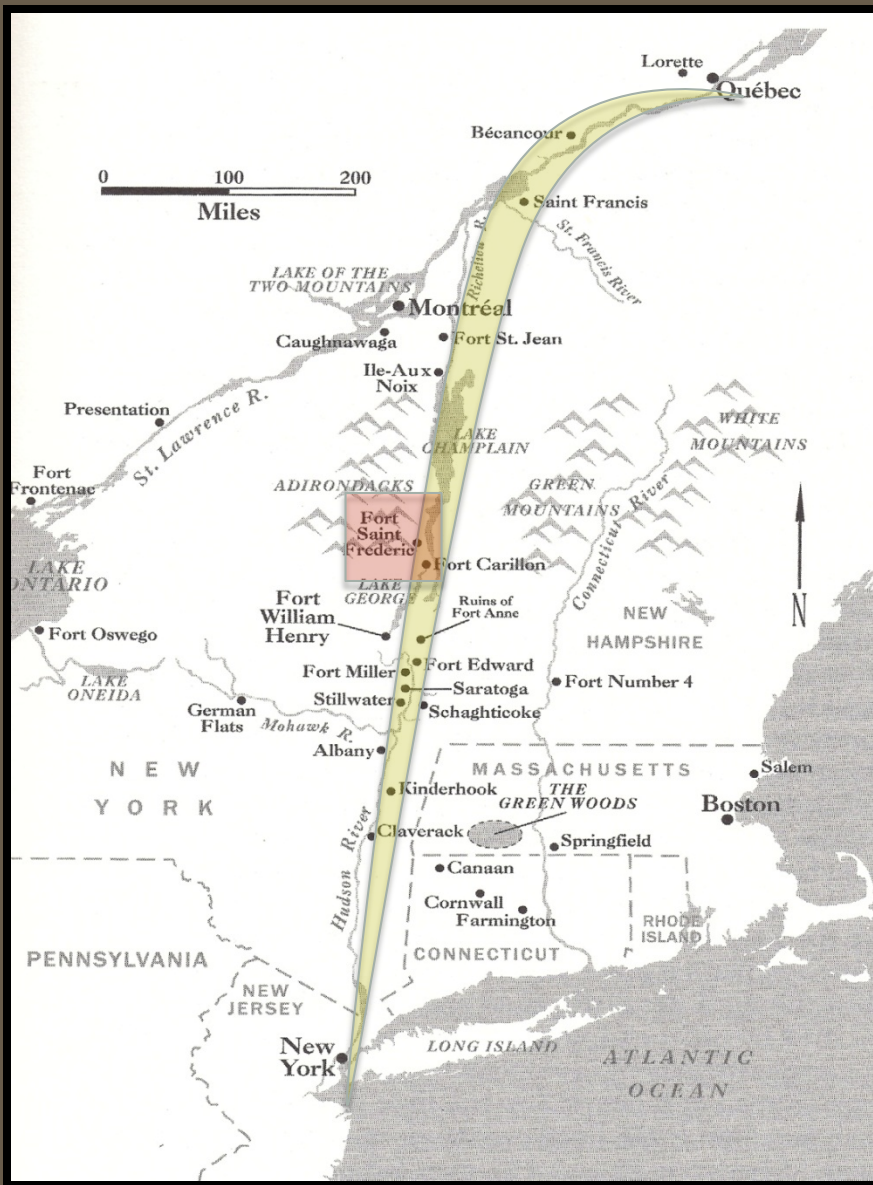




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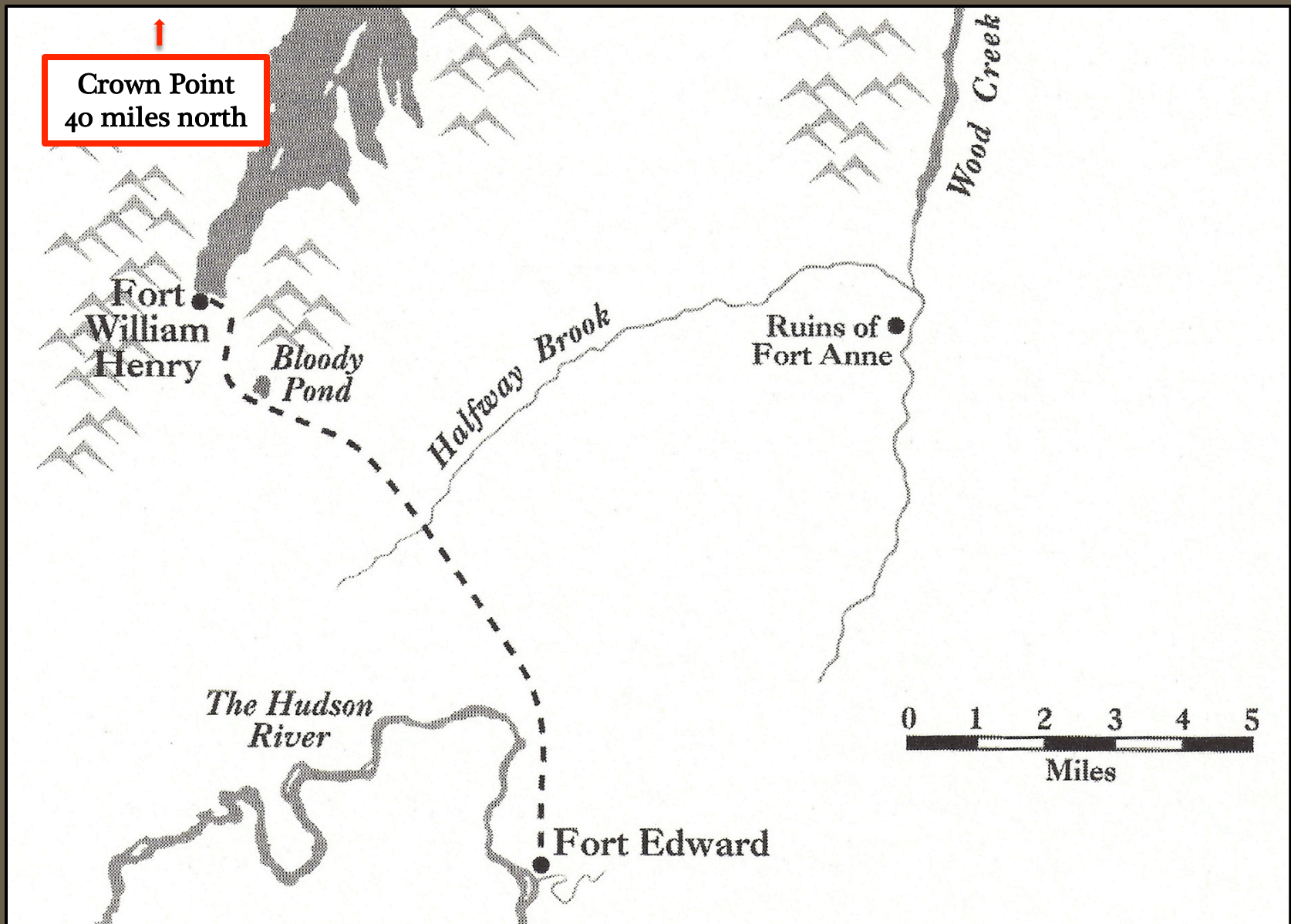
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Warpath of Empire



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Significance of the Military Road in two French and Indian War Campaigns



The Battle of Lake George
September 8, 1755



Siege and Massacre of Fort William Henry
August 1757



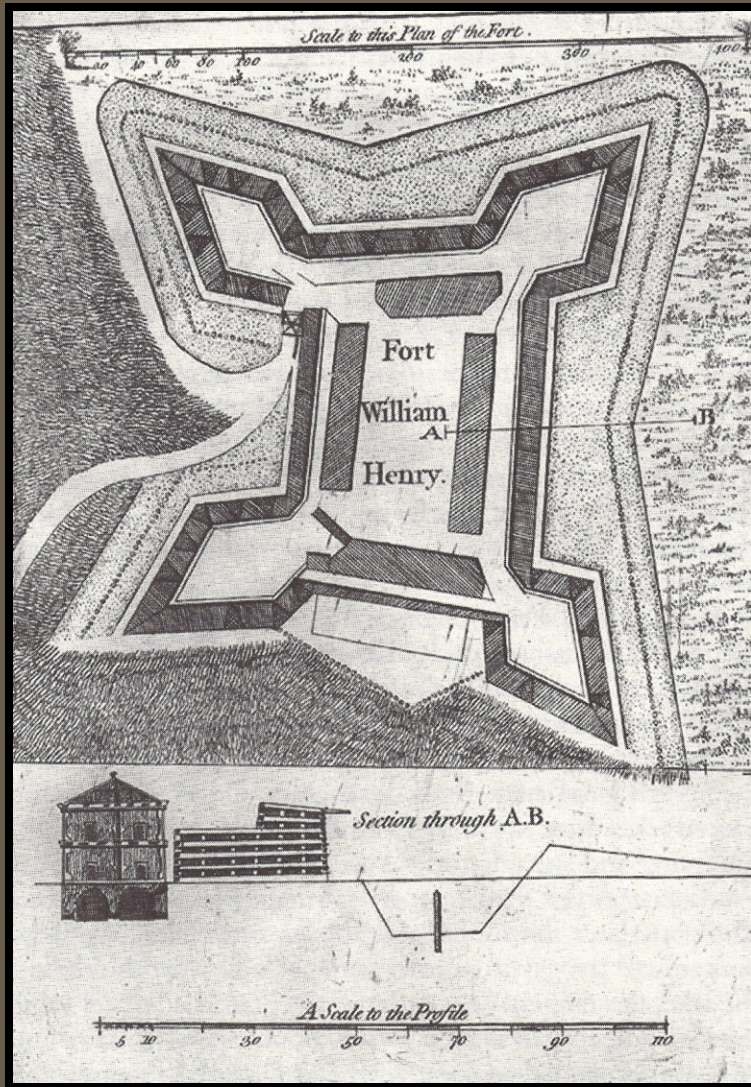
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Fort William Henry

- Built 1755
- Burned 1757
- Reconstructed 1956

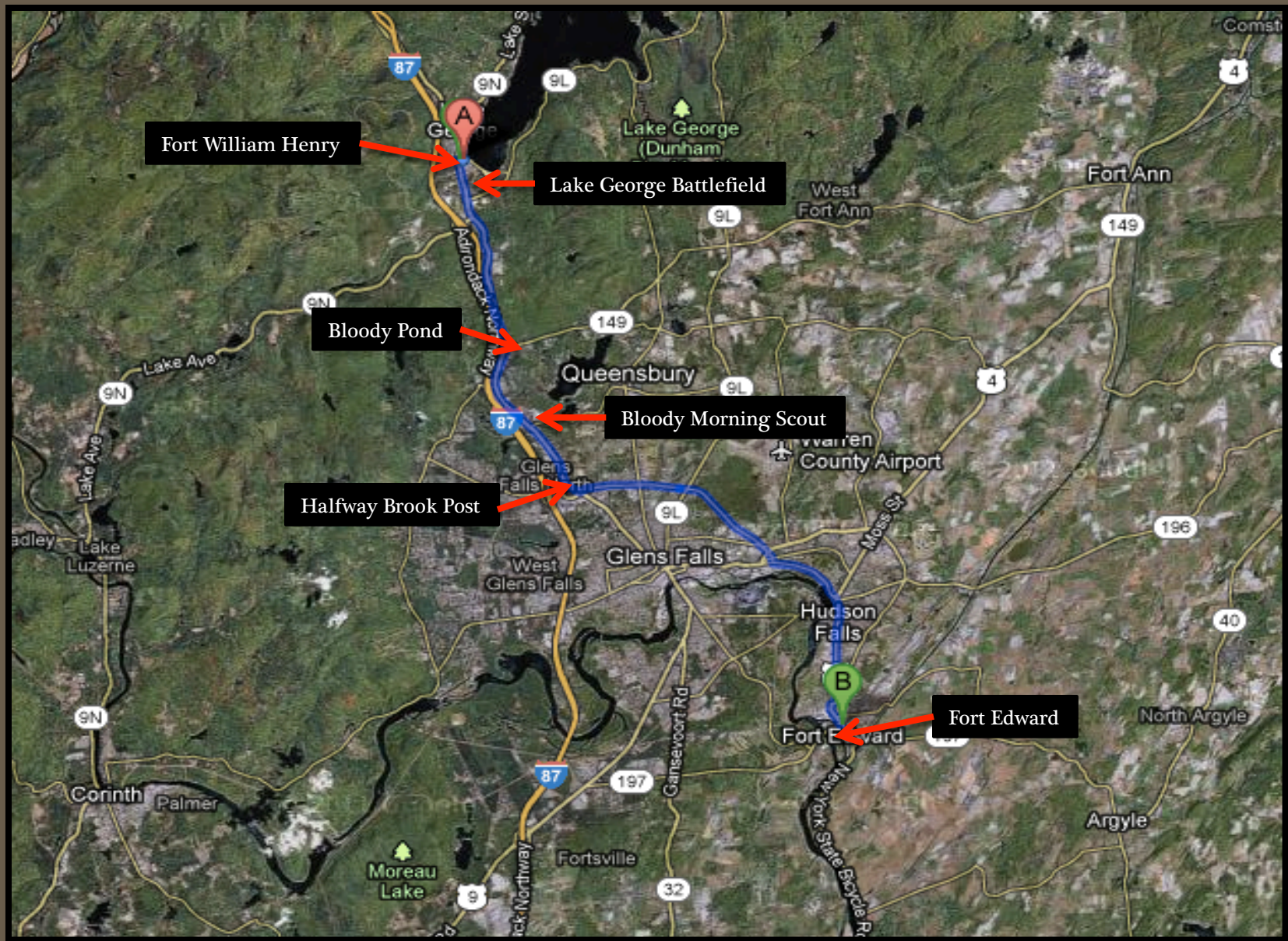


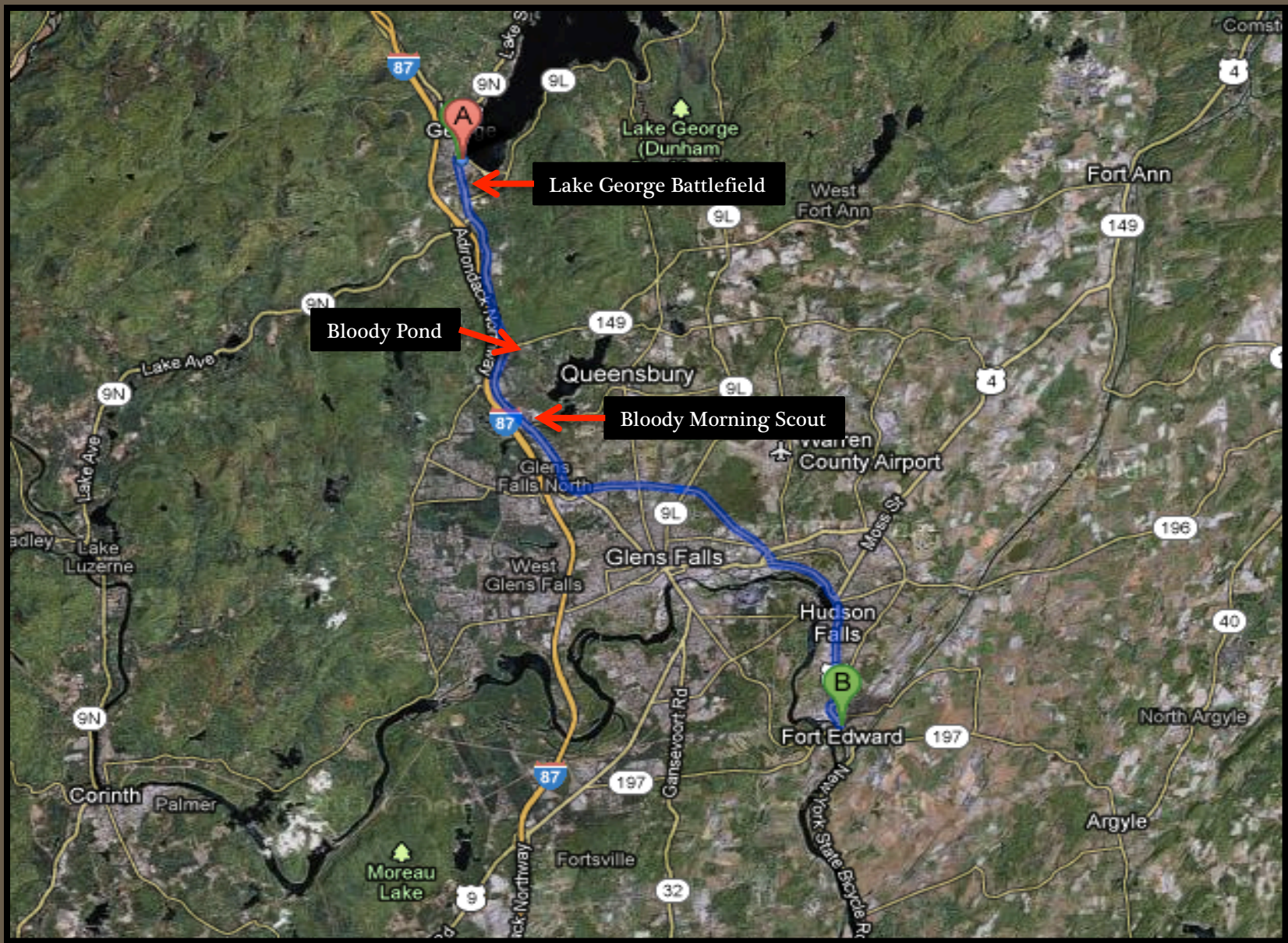


Fort Edward

- Built 1755
- Decommissioned 1761







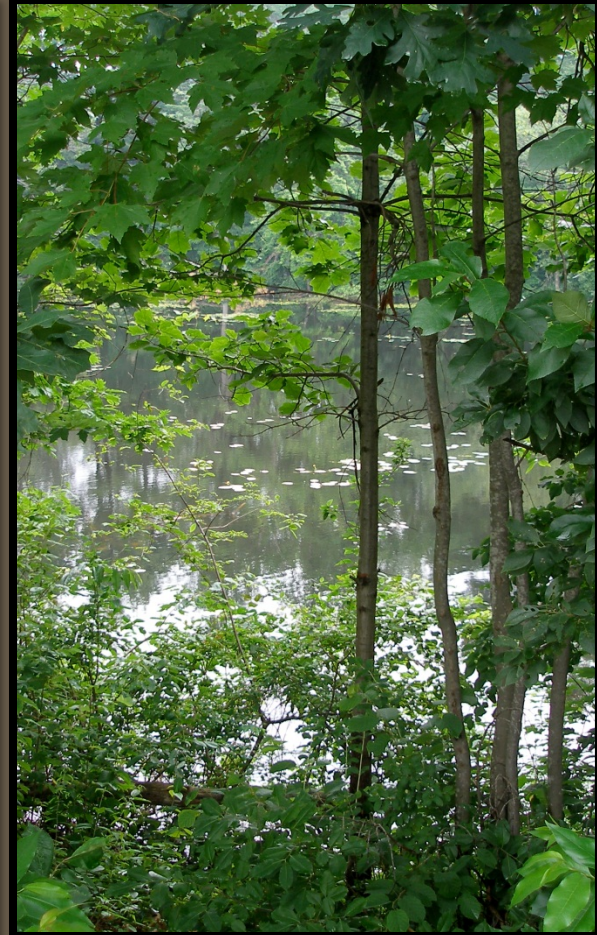
Three Case Study Sites



Bloody Morning Scout

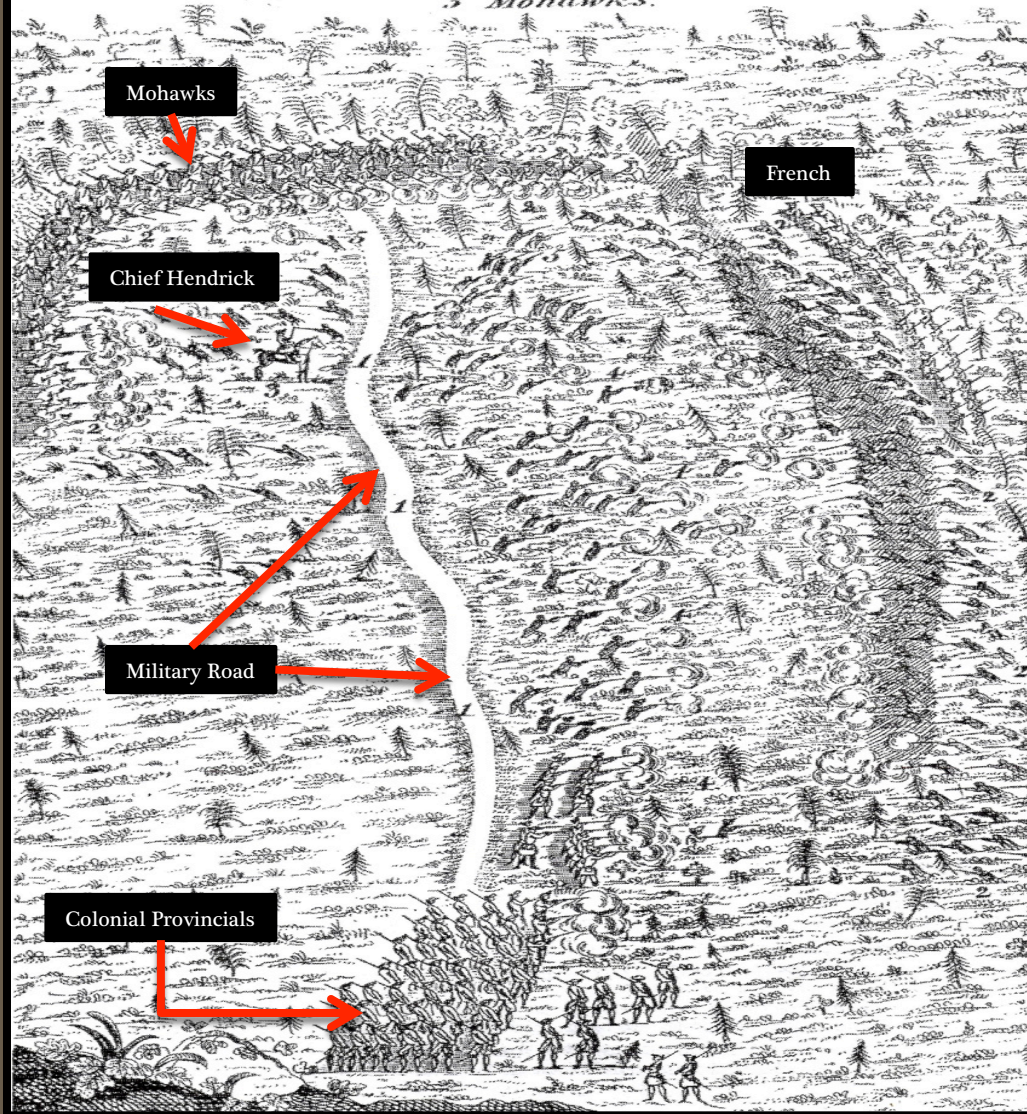


Battle of Lake George



Bloody Pond

*FIRST ENGAGEMENT
1 The Road, 2 French & Indians,
3 Hendrick on Horseback, 4 Provincials,
5 Mohawks.*



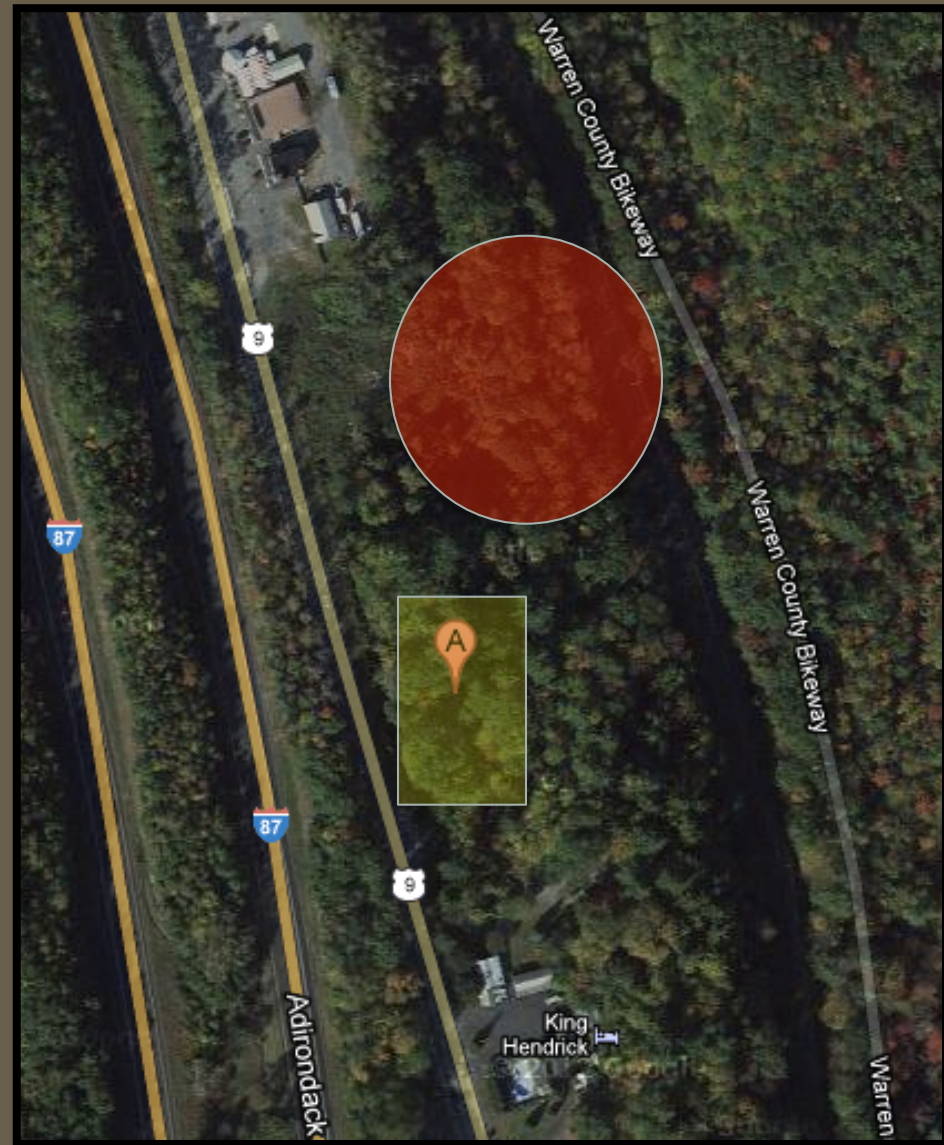
Case Study #1:
Bloody Morning Scout





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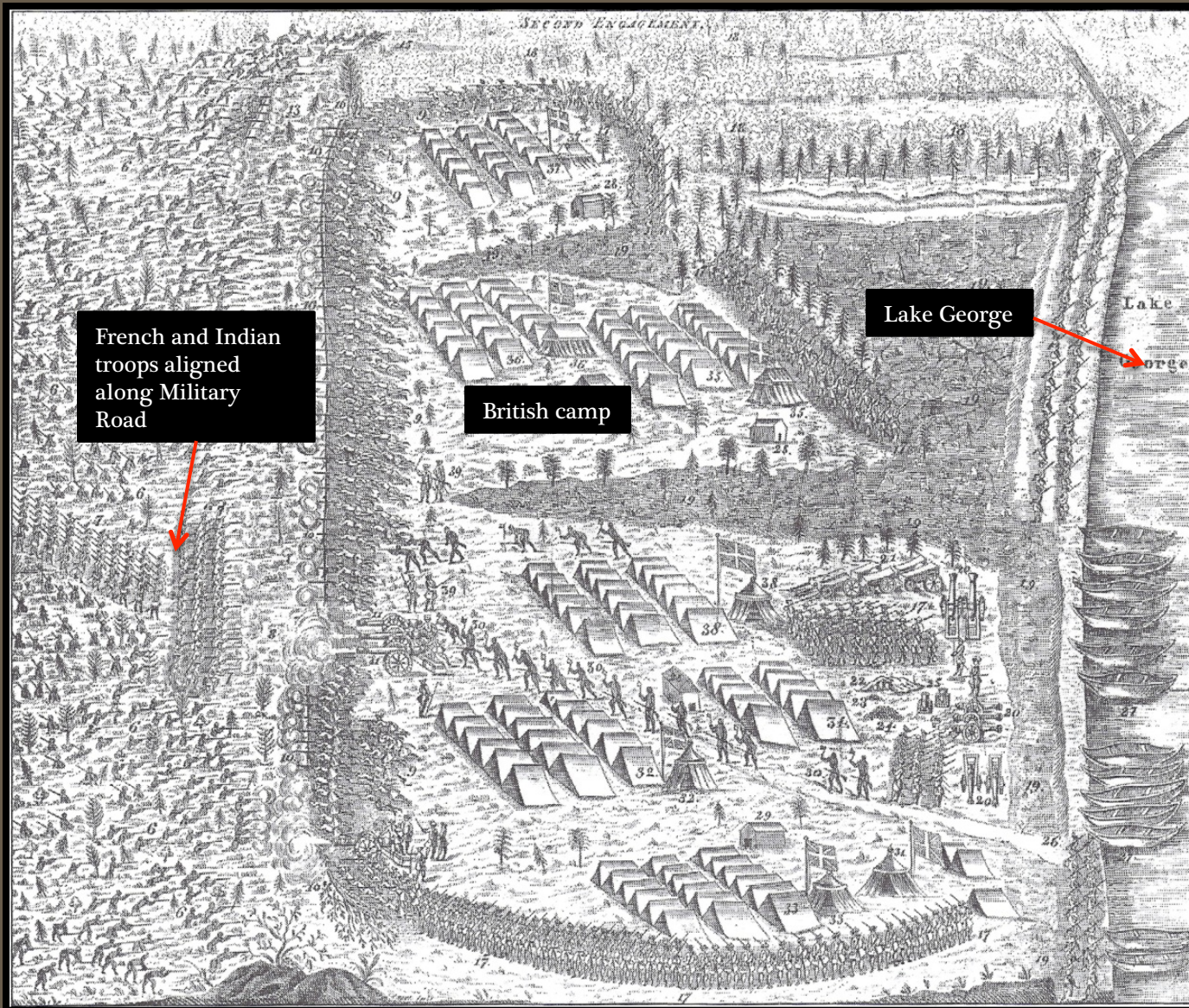
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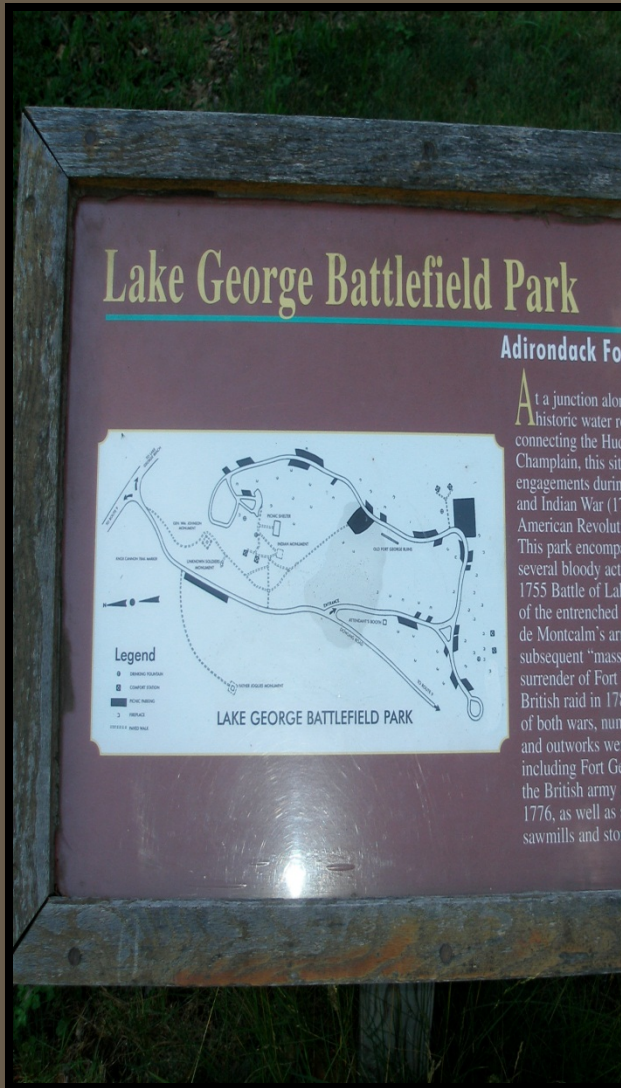
Three different signs at Bloody Morning Scout



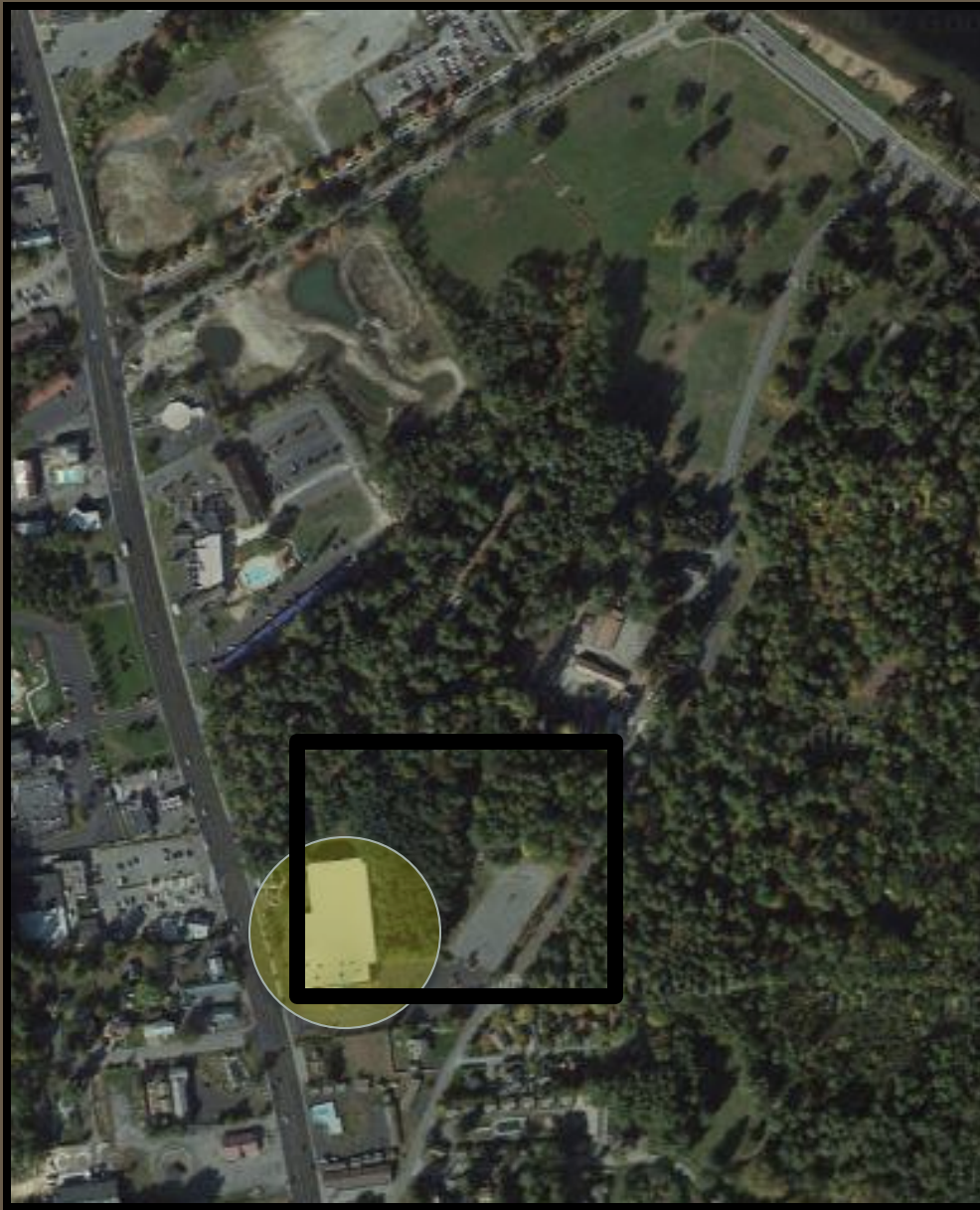
Case Study #2: Lake George Battlefield Park

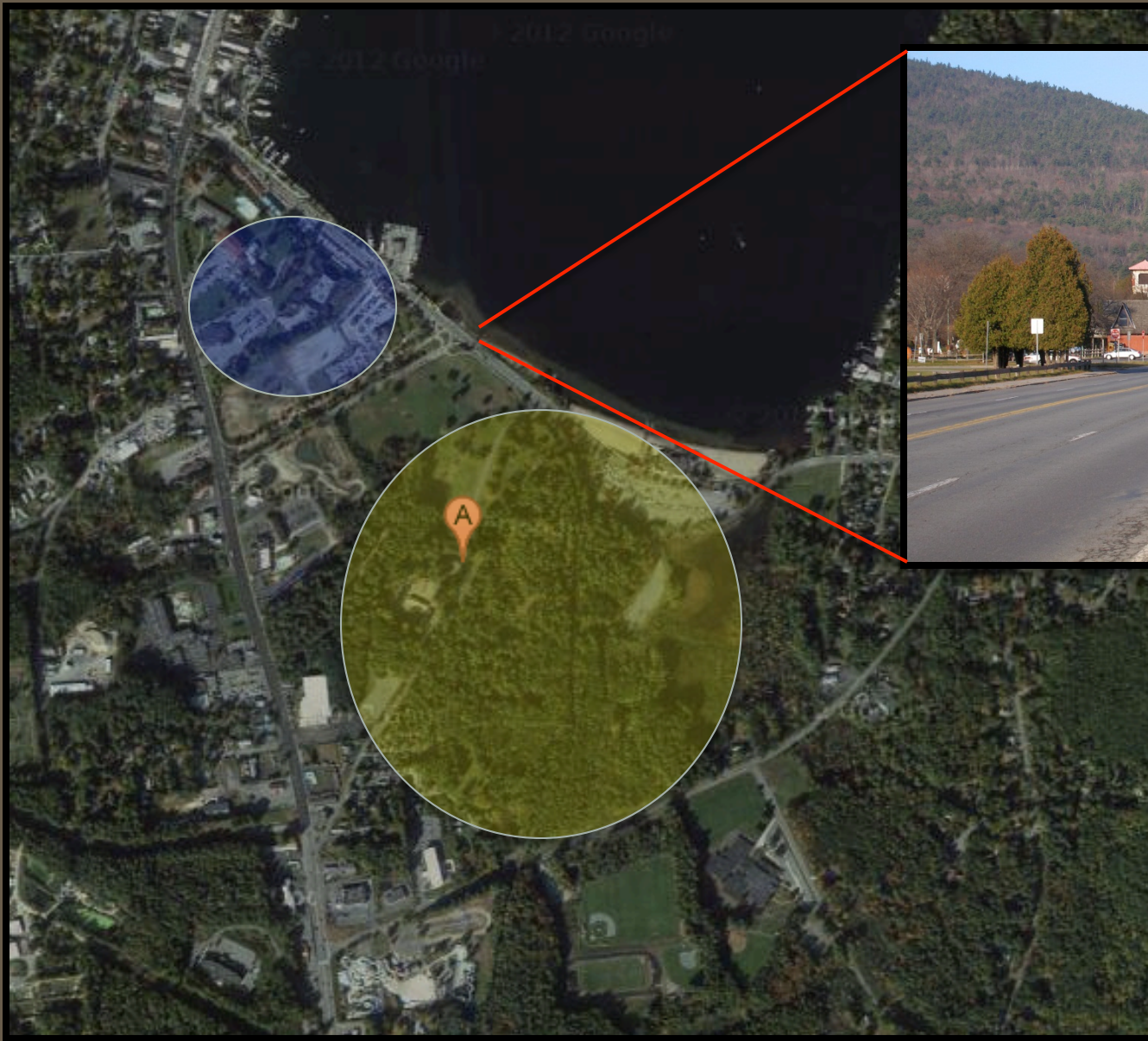












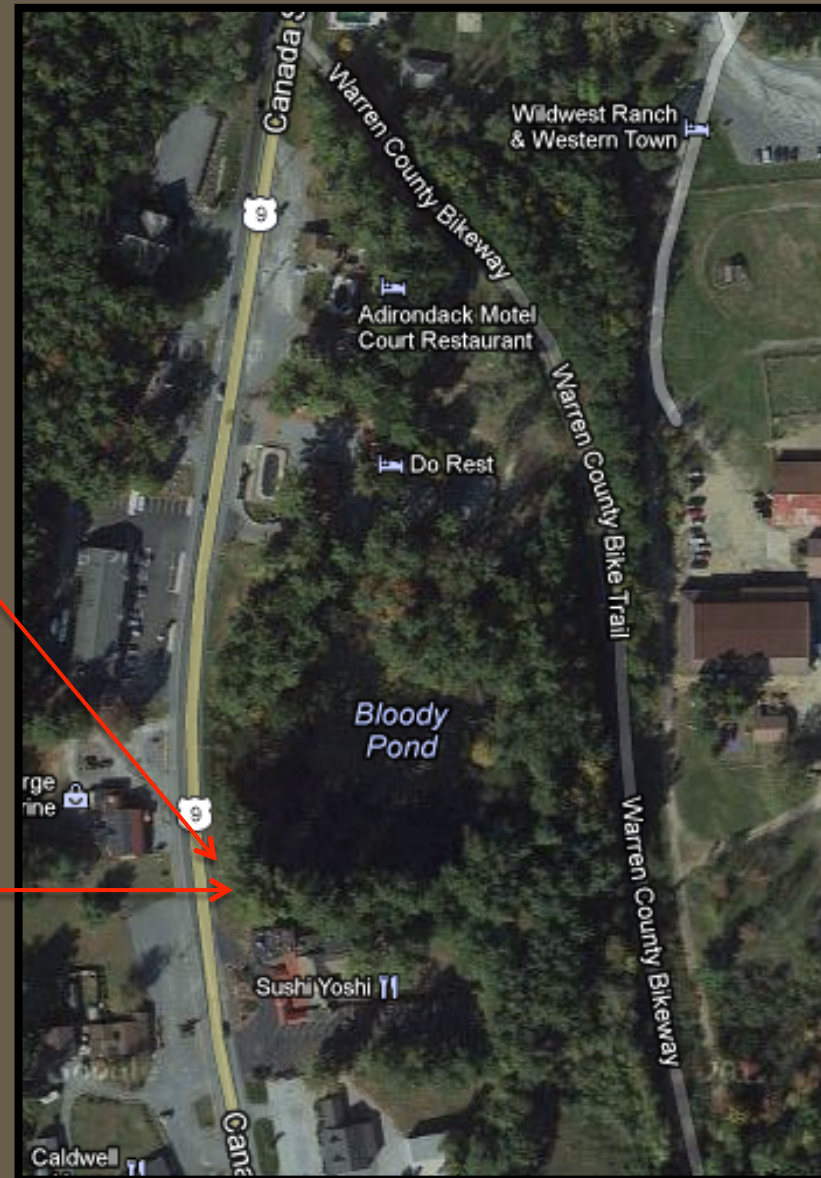
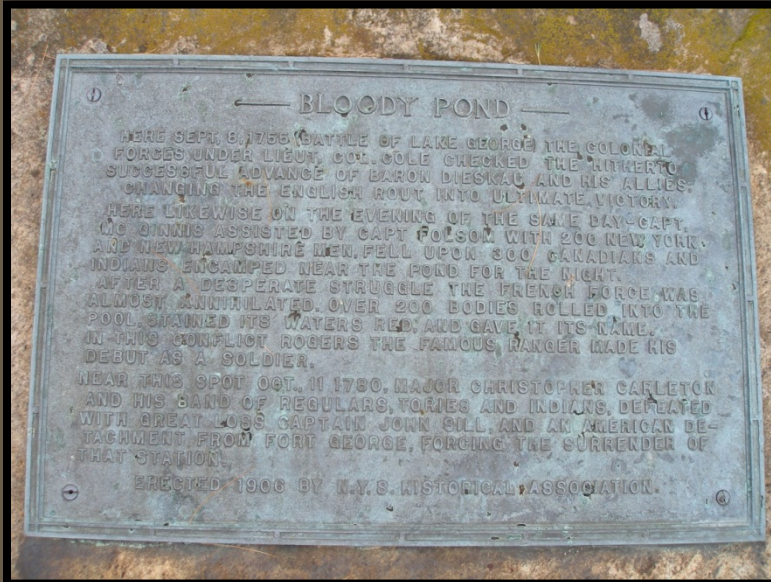


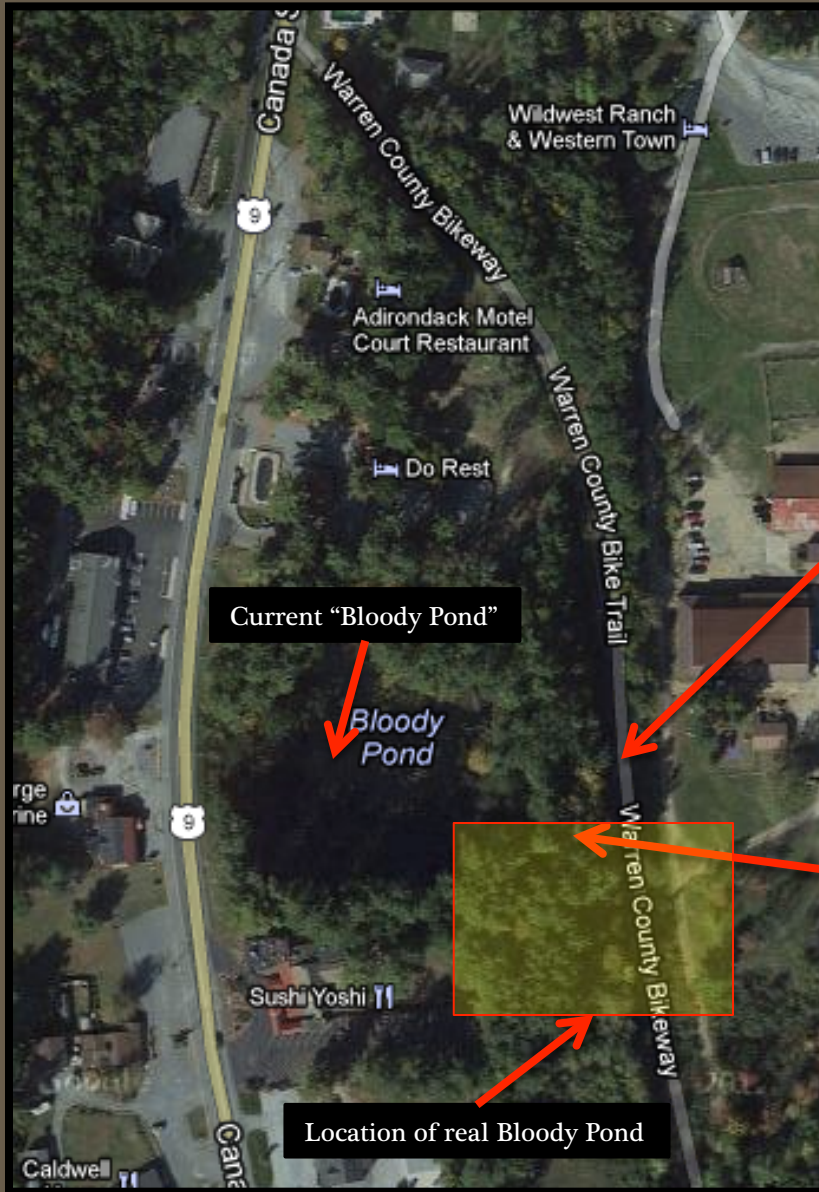
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Case Study #3: Bloody Pond









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Three Case Study Sites Conclusions



No narrative connections
between sites



Disconnect between
stakeholders



Indifference to the value
of preservation



The Military Road and its sites form a cultural landscape.



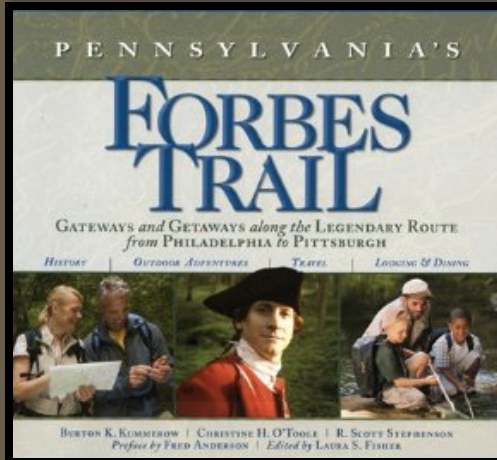
National Preservation and Interpretive Models



Shenandoah Valley Battlefields
National Historic District



Star Spangled Banner
National Historic Trail

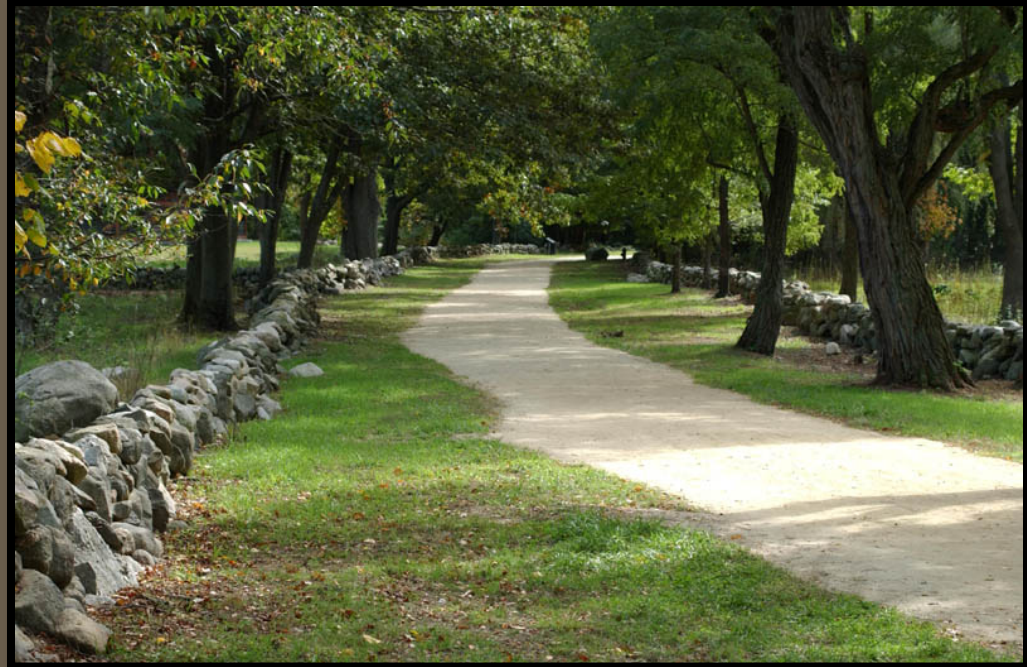


Forbes Trail, Pennsylvania

National Preservation and Interpretive Models



Civil War Trails



Battle Road at Minute Man
National Historic Park

Recommendations for a Military Road Trail

1. Include the elements of a cultural landscape.
2. Encourage visitors to visit other historic sites.
3. Create a non-profit Foundation for Trail management.
4. Give multiple stakeholders a place “at the table.”
5. Emphasize local ownership of sites.

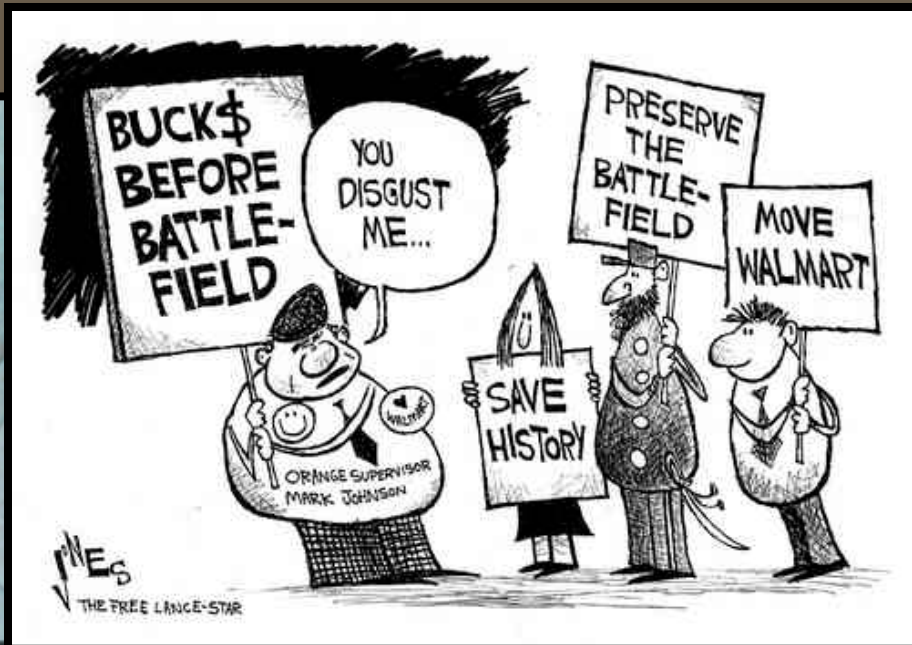


Recommendations for a Military Road Trail

6. “Blur the boundaries” between landscape and community.
7. Designate an anchor site.
8. Create an Interpretive Plan.
9. Install consistent wayside and highway signage and utilize new interpretive technology.



Recommendation for Further Action



Wilderness Battlefield Gateway Study Concepts for Preservation and Economic Development Orange County, Virginia

April 2012

Submitted To:

Friends of Wilderness Battlefield
Civil War Trust
National Park Service
National Trust for Historic Preservation
Piedmont Environmental Council
National Parks Conservation Association

Submitted By:

Hill Studio
CLUE Group
Jennings Gap Partnership
VHB

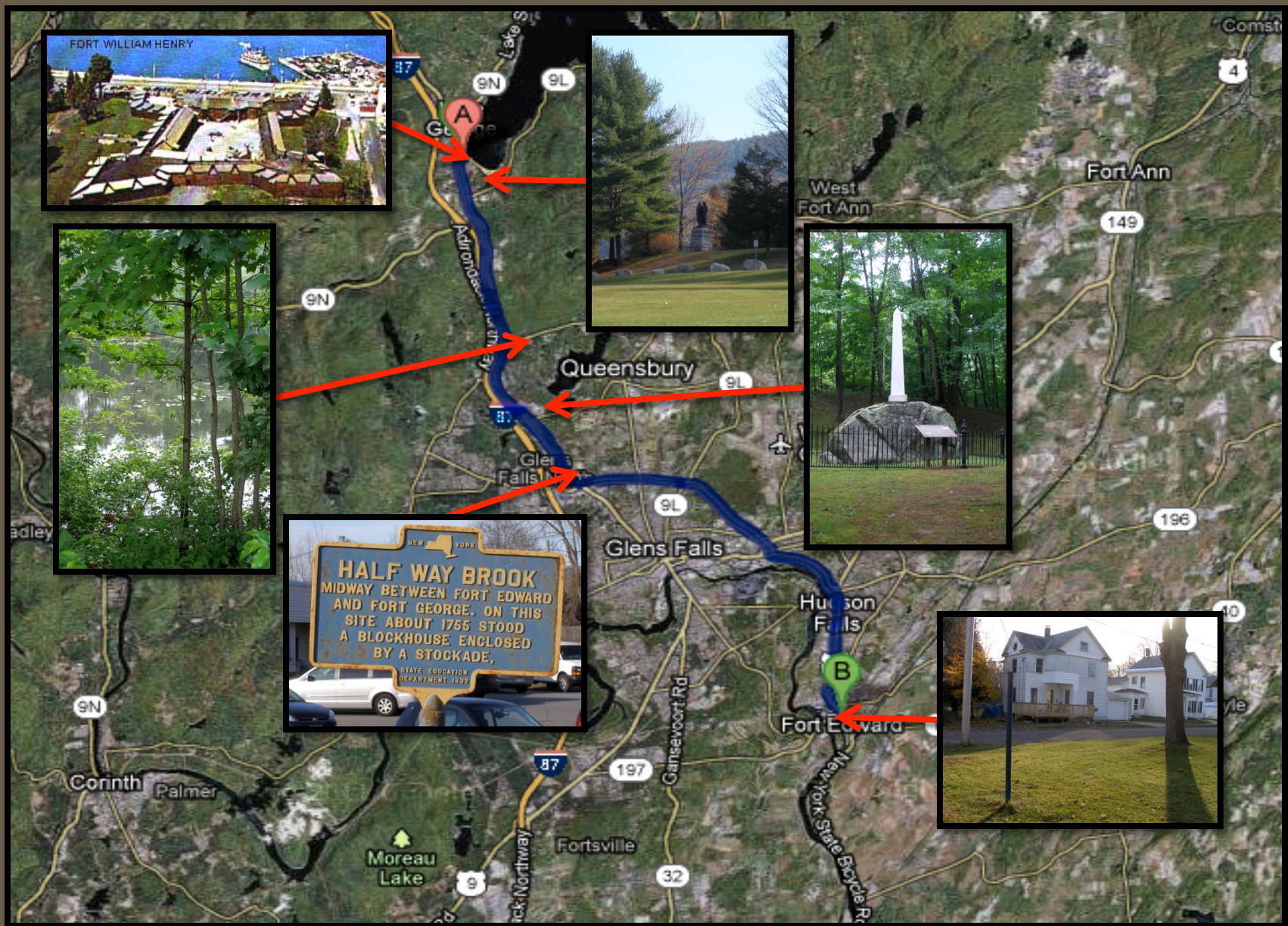


Project No. GA-2255-09-003



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Thank you!

Any
questions?

